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NOV 23 2007

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Application of Hockman et al.	:	
Application No. 10/784,812	:	Decision on Petition
Filing Date: February 24, 2004	:	
Attorney Docket No. P07698US00/WEJ	:	

This is a decision on the petition filed May 22, 2007, under 37 CFR 1.181 to withdraw the holding of abandonment of the above-identified application.

The petition is **dismissed**.

A final Office action was mailed October 12, 2006. The Office action set a shortened statutory period for reply of three (3) months.

Petitioner asserts the application is not abandoned because a reply and a request for a one-month extension of time were timely filed. Petitioner has submitted a date-stamped postcard receipt, indicating that a reply to the final Office action was received on January 31, 2007.

The original reply filed January 31, 2007, was not matched with the file and cannot be located. However, M.P.E.P. 503 states, "[a] postcard receipt which itemizes and properly identifies the papers which are being filed serves as prima facie evidence of receipt in the PTO of all the items listed thereon on the date stamped thereon by the PTO." Accordingly, it is concluded that the reply was timely filed in the Patent and Trademark Office but not matched with the application file.

The examiner has reviewed the reply and determined the reply failed to place the application in condition for allowance. A copy of a "draft" (unofficial) Advisory Action is attached as a courtesy.

Although the reply failed to place the application in condition for allowance, the application did not go abandoned for failure to file a proper response to the final Office action because a Notice of Appeal and a request for an extension of time of an additional two months were filed March 28, 2007.

The application became abandoned as a result of petitioner's failure to file an appeal brief (and fee required by 37 CFR 1.17(c)) within the time period provided in 37 CFR 1.192(a). As an

appeal brief (and appeal brief fee) was not filed within two (2) months of the Notice of Appeal filed March 28, 2007, and no extensions of time under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a) were obtained, the appeal was dismissed and the proceedings as to the rejected claims were terminated. See 37 CFR 1.192(b) & 1.197(c). As no claim was allowed, the above-identified application became abandoned on May 30, 2007.¹ See MPEP 1215.04.

Petitioner may wish to consider filing a petition to revive based on unintentional abandonment under 37 CFR 1.137(b). A grantable petition pursuant to 37 CFR 1.137(b) must be accompanied by the required reply (an Appeal Brief or RCE), the required petition fee (\$770 for a small entity), and a statement that the **entire** delay in filing the required reply from the due date for the reply until the filing of a grantable petition pursuant to 37 CFR 1.137(b) was unintentional. A PDF "fillable" version of a form that can be used to file a petition under 37 CFR 1.137(b) can be found at: http://www.uspto.gov/web/forms/sb0064_fill.pdf.

Any request for reconsideration must be submitted within TWO (2) MONTHS from the mail date of this decision. Extensions of time under 37 CFR 1.136(a) are NOT permitted. The reconsideration request should include a cover letter entitled "Renewed Petition under 37 CFR 1.181." This is **not** final agency action within the meaning of 5 U.S.C. § 704.

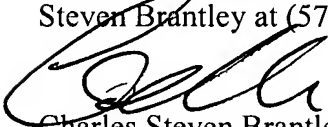
Further correspondence with respect to this matter should be addressed as follows:

By mail: Mail Stop Petition
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

By facsimile: (571) 273-8300
Attn: Office of Petitions

By hand: U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Customer Service Window
Randolph Building
401 Dulany Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Telephone inquiries regarding this communication should be directed to Petitions Attorney Steven Brantley at (571) 272-3203.



Charles Steven Brantley
Senior Petitions Attorney
Office of Petitions

Attached: Draft Advisory Action

¹ Monday, May 28, 2007, was a federal holiday. Therefore, an Appeal Brief could have been timely filed as late as May 29, 2007.

**Advisory Action
Before the Filing of an Appeal Brief**

Application No.

10/784,812

Applicant(s)

HOCKMAN, MARK

Examiner

Jeanette E. Chapman

Art Unit

3633

--The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

THE REPLY FILED 31 January 2007 FAILS TO PLACE THIS APPLICATION IN CONDITION FOR ALLOWANCE.

1. ☐ The reply was filed after a final rejection, but prior to or on the same day as filing a Notice of Appeal. To avoid abandonment of this application, applicant must timely file one of the following replies: (1) an amendment, affidavit, or other evidence, which places the application in condition for allowance; (2) a Notice of Appeal (with appeal fee) in compliance with 37 CFR 41.31; or (3) a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) in compliance with 37 CFR 1.114. The reply must be filed within one of the following time periods:

- a) ☒ The period for reply expires 4 months from the mailing date of the final rejection.
b) ☐ The period for reply expires on: (1) the mailing date of this Advisory Action, or (2) the date set forth in the final rejection, whichever is later. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of the final rejection.

Examiner Note: If box 1 is checked, check either box (a) or (b). ONLY CHECK BOX (b) WHEN THE FIRST REPLY WAS FILED WITHIN TWO MONTHS OF THE FINAL REJECTION. See MPEP 706.07(f).

Extensions of time may be obtained under 37 CFR 1.136(a). The date on which the petition under 37 CFR 1.136(a) and the appropriate extension fee have been filed is the date for purposes of determining the period of extension and the corresponding amount of the fee. The appropriate extension fee under 37 CFR 1.17(a) is calculated from: (1) the expiration date of the shortened statutory period for reply originally set in the final Office action; or (2) as set forth in (b) above, if checked. Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of the final rejection, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

NOTICE OF APPEAL

2. ☒ The Notice of Appeal was filed on 28 March 2007. A brief in compliance with 37 CFR 41.37 must be filed within two months of the date of filing the Notice of Appeal (37 CFR 41.37(a)), or any extension thereof (37 CFR 41.37(e)), to avoid dismissal of the appeal. Since a Notice of Appeal has been filed, any reply must be filed within the time period set forth in 37 CFR 41.37(a).

AMENDMENTS

3. ☐ The proposed amendment(s) filed after a final rejection, but prior to the date of filing a brief, will not be entered because
(a) ☐ They raise new issues that would require further consideration and/or search (see NOTE below);
(b) ☐ They raise the issue of new matter (see NOTE below);
(c) ☐ They are not deemed to place the application in better form for appeal by materially reducing or simplifying the issues for appeal; and/or
(d) ☐ They present additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims.

NOTE: _____. (See 37 CFR 1.116 and 41.33(a)).

4. ☐ The amendments are not in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121. See attached Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment (PTOL-324).
5. ☐ Applicant's reply has overcome the following rejection(s): _____.
6. ☐ Newly proposed or amended claim(s) _____ would be allowable if submitted in a separate, timely filed amendment canceling the non-allowable claim(s).
7. ☐ For purposes of appeal, the proposed amendment(s): a) ☐ will not be entered, or b) ☐ will be entered and an explanation of how the new or amended claims would be rejected is provided below or appended.
The status of the claim(s) is (or will be) as follows:
Claim(s) allowed: _____.
Claim(s) objected to: _____.
Claim(s) rejected: _____.
Claim(s) withdrawn from consideration: _____.

AFFIDAVIT OR OTHER EVIDENCE

8. ☐ The affidavit or other evidence filed after a final action, but before or on the date of filing a Notice of Appeal will not be entered because applicant failed to provide a showing of good and sufficient reasons why the affidavit or other evidence is necessary and was not earlier presented. See 37 CFR 1.116(e).
9. ☐ The affidavit or other evidence filed after the date of filing a Notice of Appeal, but prior to the date of filing a brief, will not be entered because the affidavit or other evidence failed to overcome all rejections under appeal and/or appellant fails to provide a showing of good and sufficient reasons why it is necessary and was not earlier presented. See 37 CFR 41.33(d)(1).
10. ☐ The affidavit or other evidence is entered. An explanation of the status of the claims after entry is below or attached.

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION/OTHER

11. ☒ The request for reconsideration has been considered but does NOT place the application in condition for allowance because:
See Continuation Sheet.
12. ☐ Note the attached Information Disclosure Statement(s). (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s). _____.
13. ☐ Other: _____.

/JEANETTE CHAPMAN/
PRIMARY EXAMINER
ART UNIT 3633

Continuation of 11. does NOT place the application in condition for allowance because: Applicant's arguments are not persuasive; applicant argues that pages 4-6 may be interpreted as "The spanning means and the means for connecting being located below the top of adjacent seams" and "the pipe mounted close to the surface of the base portion of the roof surface". The examiner does not agree and still finds the specification non-enabling for the recited claim language above. Regarding the double patenting rejection, it is clear that the examiner meant to state serial number 10/882,552; however in a subsequent paragraph of the the rejection, this serial number is made clear. the double patenting rejection involving the canceled claims of sn 10/898, 552 is obviously moot but a new double patenting rejection would obviously be drafted to include claims 1-6 of the present application and claims 9-13 of sn 10/898,552